What is claimed is:

1.   A USB unit control method, wherein, when coupling a plurality of USB units including a dual-role device acting as a USB device or a USB host via a hub, said method determines the function of said dual-role device assumed when it is connected, and switches said dual-role device between a USB device and a USB host.

2.   A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein, in case a dual-role device acting as a USB host is connected to a hub where a USB host is connected, said method makes a switchover of said dual-role device from a USB host to a USB device, and reports said switchover to said USB host.

3.   A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein, in case all dual-role devices connected to a hub act as USB devices, said method detects the Session Request Protocol from said dual-role devices and switches the dual-role device which has started the Session Request Protocol to a USB host.

4.   A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein, in case a USB host is connected to a hub via a four-wire USB cable, said method makes a switchover of all dual-role devices connected to said hub to USB devices, and reports said switchover to said USB host.

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5.   A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein, in case a USB device is connected via a four-wire USB cable to a hub where a USB host is connected, said method reports connection of said USB device to said USB host.

6.   A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein said method determines the function of said dual-role device assumed when it is connected based on the state of a port where a USB unit is connected or change in the state of D+ or D- of a USB data line, and makes a switchover of said dual-role device between a USB device and a USB host.

7.   A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein said method detects a specific request from a USB host connected to a hub and makes a switchover of a plurality of dual-role devices between a USB device and a USB host.

8.   A USB unit controller, wherein said USB unit controller executes a USB unit control method according to any one of claims 1 through 7.

9.   A USB unit controller according to claim 8, wherein said USB unit controller comprises

a hub for coupling a plurality of USB devices including a dual-role device acting as a USB device or a USB host,

device control means for determining the function of said

dual-role device assumed when it is connected, and

bus management means for making a switchover of a dual-role

device connected to said hub between a USB device and a USB

host.

10.   A USB unit controller according to claim 9, wherein said

device control means comprises a function for performing

communications between a USB host and a USB device, a function

for performing data communications, and a function for detecting

and starting the Session Request Protocol and executing the

Host Negotiation Protocol.

11.   A USB unit controller according to claim 9 or 10, wherein

said USB unit controller comprises at least one receptacle for

a USB cable defined in the OTG Supplementary Specifications

and functions as a USB hub.

12.   A program wherein said program is a program for executing

a USB unit control method described in any one of claims 1 through

7.

13.   A semiconductor integrated circuit wherein said

semiconductor integrated circuit comprises a program according

to claim 12 and a USB unit controller according to any one of

claims 8 through 11.